

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 /069 W

-----073913 051008Z /15

R 050905Z JUN 78

FM AMCONSUL KADUNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4020

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

/AMCONSUL IBADAN 2209

C O N F I D E N T I A L KADUNA 0672

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, NI

SUBJECT: COMMUNAL TENSIONS IN MAIDUGURI

1. NEW NIGERIAN (KADUNA) AND STANDARD (JOS) BOTH CARRY ARTICLES TODAY REPORTING EFFORTS BY SHEHU OF BORNO OVER WEEKEND TO DISPEL RUMORS IN MAIDUGURI THAT "MUSLIMS ARE GOING TO ATTACK CHRISTIANS IN THE STATE". ACCORDING TO STORIES RUMORS WERE SUFFICIENTLY WIDESPARED TO HAVE LED PEOPLE (PRESUMABLY NON-NORTHERN CHRISTIANS) TO PACK UP AND HEAD FOR THEIR HOME AREAS.

2. THE SHEHU FIRST ADDRESSED RELIGIOUS LEADERS AT HIS PALACE AND LATER SPOKE TO GROUPS OF CITIZENS IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF THE CITY. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE LOCAL CATHOLIC AND METHODIST BISHOPS AS WELL AS SENIOR MILITARY POLICE AND BORNO STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

3. COMMENT: DURING RECENT TOUR OF ALL STATE CAPITALS IN CONSULAR DISTRICT, PO JUDGED THAT IN VIRTUALLY EVERY STATE, THERE EXISTS IN VARYING DEGREE TENSIONS BETWEEN MOSLEM AND CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES. MOST OBVIOUS REASON FOR THIS COMMUNAL TENSION IS PERCEPTION BY MOSLEMS THAT
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THINGS, PARTICULARLY SHARIA COURT ISSUE, HAVE NOT GONE WELL FOR THE "HOLY NORTH" AT THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. SUSPECT ALSO (BUT HAVE NO EVIDENCE) THAT ILL-ADVISED GLOATING BY CHRISTIANS AT OUTCOME OF SHARIA ISSUE MAY HAVE FUELED MOSLEM RESENTMENTS. GENERALLY, TENSIONS DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE REACHED FLASH POINT. HOWEVER, AS TIME FOR ACTIVE POLITICS DRAWS NEARER, SUSPECT THERE

WILL DEVELOP MORE AND MORE SITUATIONS LIKE THAT IN
MAIDUGURI.
BURKE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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